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SUMMER 2006

ORANGE & WHITE

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT BROWNSVILLE & TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE

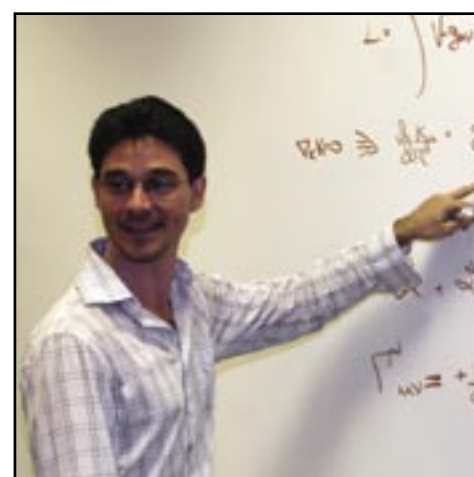


UTB/TSC ATTRACTS PRESTIGIOUS FACULTY TO CAMPUS

Louis Falk, English and Communication



Penelope Bennet-Baird, Nursing



Fredrick Jenet, Physics and Astronomy



Richard Gomez Jr, School of Education

From Germany, India and Mexico, from Cornell, CalTech and Texas A&M, recent additions to the UTB/TSC faculty are helping transform the campus with cutting edge research, new teaching techniques and real-world knowledge that benefits both students and community.

In the last year, 33 new faculty positions have been added. But even with 350 full-time faculty, the university still uses all its creativity and skill to keep up with “phenomenal” student growth, says Dr. Ruth Ann Ragland, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

In the last five years, the university has added 14 new degree programs, including six master’s degrees and four bachelor’s degrees. Planning is under way for the university’s first doctorate in education in curriculum and instruction, and planning authority will soon be requested for a doctorate in physics.

Many distinguished faculty newcomers are pioneers, attracted to UTB/TSC by the opportunities to help build a great university from the ground up. They have taken to heart a favorite saying of Provost Jose Martin: “We’re not in the business of clipping wings.”

“These new programs reflect a vibrant faculty,” Ragland said. “They get the idea, they write the proposals....It requires creativity, commitment, hard work and follow-through.”

Particular growth areas on campus include physics, biology, environmental sciences and communication. Nursing and education draw many majors as well. Along with academic opportunities, these programs also promise rewards for the community as a whole in disease prevention, economic development and quality of life.

“I’m seeing extremely high-quality candidates being brought in by search committees in the various academic departments,” Ragland said. “Many of our faculty come here, or stay here, because of our programs and our students and our

community....They believe they can make a difference here, and they can excel here.”

College of Science, Math and Technology

Physics and Astronomy Assistant Professor Fredrick Jenet, who holds degrees from the nation’s most prestigious scientific institutions, is excited about the opportunity to build a world-class physics department in Brownsville.

As part of UTB/TSC’s Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy, Jenet brings his expertise in pulsar timing to the detection of spacetime ripples predicted by Einstein. He came to the university from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology in 2005.

“The work being done here is affecting research, not just locally, not just in the state or nation, but around the world,” says Jenet, a graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a doctorate in physics from CalTech. “We are working and competing with researchers from around the world.”

Jenet, who gives tango lessons in his free time, describes himself as “adventurous” and someone who enjoys the challenge of “getting in on the ground floor” of a hot new scientific program. His special field is pulsars, dense stars whose periodic radiation emissions can be useful in the detection of gravitation waves.

In April, the Center for Gravitational Wave Astronomy, together with scientists from CalTech and the Goddard Space Flight Center, announced a major breakthrough that could speed up work on Einstein’s theory

of spacetime curvature—and the detection of gravitational waves from colliding black holes—by more than a decade.

The discovery allows scientists to verify Einstein’s work, which predicts ripples in spacetime generated by supermassive bodies like black holes. It will affect the design and development of a \$2 billion NASA/European Space Agency gravitational wave mission scheduled for launch in 2015.

College of Liberal Arts

Communication skills are essential in almost every job in a fast-growing economy, and Dr. Louis Falk came to UTB/TSC to help develop a communication program that meets this need.

An Associate Professor in the English and Communication Department, Falk helped create a Shadow Day program that gives communication majors a chance to experience real-world employment situations for a day.

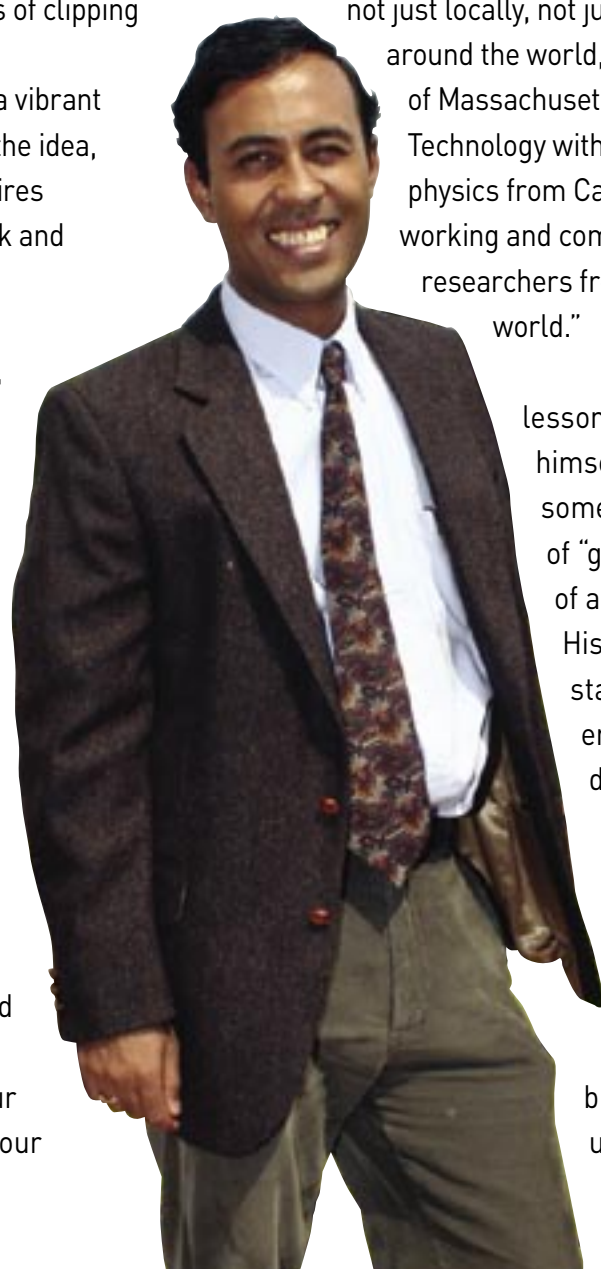
“The work being done here is affecting research, not just locally, not just in the state or the nation, but around the world.”

—Fredrick Jenet, Physics and Astronomy

Forty companies, from public relations and advertising firms to hospitals, non-profits, banks and television stations, all participated in the successful Shadow Day event last fall. Falk said UTB/TSC’s welcoming response to such new ideas was a big reason he joined the faculty.

“This area is developing rapidly. As companies move in, they’re going to be looking for the wide-ranging skills a communication program provides,” Falk said. “I came to UTB/TSC for the opportunity to build this program. There is a chance to do incredible stuff here you can’t do in other communities with old established ways. They brought me here and they turned me loose.”

Falk, who came to UTB/TSC from Youngstown State University in Ohio, earned his doctorate in mass communications from the University of Southern Mississippi.



Gautam Hazarika, School of Business

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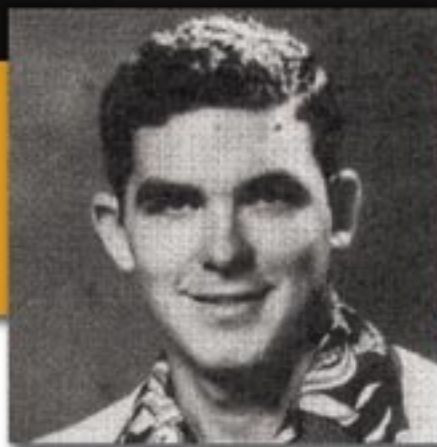
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TSC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARDS



Johnny Cavazos



Nena Sanchez

You might
be surprised
how many
crowning
achievements
you'll find on
our campus.

Home of the 2005
National Chess
Champions

One of the nation's most respected educators, who overcame childhood adversity and indifference to earn her doctorate and international

recognition, and a husband and wife whose successful insurance business and support for higher education have deeply touched the Brownsville community, were honored this spring with the Texas Southmost College Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Johnny and Nena Cavazos, of Brownsville, and Dr. Guadalupe C. Quintanilla, of Houston, had their start at what is today The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College. "The honorees have stories of perseverance, diligence, and strength or *fuerza* that has brought them to stand out in their fields," said Chester Gonzalez, TSC Board Chairman who presented the DAA medals to each recipient.

Johnny and Nena Cavazos

Johnny and Nena Cavazos met on the TSC campus in the early 1950s and have been active in the community for decades, giving scholarships to deserving Brownsville high school graduates for many years. Recently, their generosity created one of the largest family scholarship endowments in UTB/TSC history.

"We are very, very, very honored that we were chosen," said Johnny "We're real, real proud."

Starting from a one-room office in 1965, the

Cavazos' built a thriving independent insurance agency, offering general insurance policies and now specializing in group medical plans for businesses and public entities such as school districts, city governments and the like.

Nena, who worked for a few years as a teacher before the couple struck out on their own, used her small retirement savings to buy a typewriter and pay the first month's office rent. "I had experience in insurance office work. Johnny got interested in insurance as well, and we decided to go into business ourselves. Johnny's cup of tea is sales, so we made a good team."

Johnny also recalls those early days, and the large front window that allowed Nena to see him returning from a business appointment. "If I danced, she knew I'd made a sale!"

Sports and education have long been important to the Cavazos'. Johnny was a star on TSC's last football team and went on to coach at area schools. Nena earned her degree in education and taught for several years before joining her husband in building Cavazos Insurance. Their \$1 million scholarship endowment gives preference to those in the kinesiology and education fields.

Nena said she hoped the couple's story, and the honors they have received, will serve as an inspiration to others just starting out. "We made it on our own through the college years, borrowing and working all kinds of odd jobs. I hope it's encouraging: If we can do it, somebody else can do it too."



Dr. Guadalupe C. Quintanilla

TSC DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARDS

Dr. **Guadalupe C. Quintanilla**—who enthalls audiences with her story of being labeled “mentally retarded” as a young immigrant to Brownsville—earned her doctorate’s degree and has served on the University of Houston faculty for 30 years.

This expert in Latin- and Mexican-American studies got her start in higher education at what is now UTB/TSC, after dropping out of the first grade as a teenager.

At age 13, Quintanilla came to Brownsville with no formal education and no English skills. She was placed in first grade, and chastised for speaking Spanish. Leaving school behind, she went on to marry and raise a family, only returning to school when she saw her own children being relegated to the educational fringes.

She recalls waiting in the parking lot for the TSC registrar, begging for a chance to learn English and obtain an education. Given that chance, Quintanilla says she was helped along the way by professors and students who believed in her and encouraged her.

“To me, receiving the Distinguished Alumni

Award is a great, great honor. It is the greatest of all the honors I have received,” says Quintanilla, who gives credit for her success to “the students and teachers who helped me.”

She added: “I endorse community colleges so strongly because I’m a product of one. I’ve touched people’s lives in honor of the people who touched mine.”

Today, along with her teaching and active speaking schedule, Quintanilla advises police and security departments around the country in cultural awareness. Her company, Cross-Cultural Communication Center of Houston, has been praised by both the Department of Defense and Department of Justice. Her clients include the U.S. Secret Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, numerous police departments and even security forces for the Olympic Games.

Named “A Woman of the Century” and included in a permanent exhibit at the National Museum of Women, Quintanilla has also been named to the Hispanic Women Hall of Fame and “The State of Texas Outstanding Women.” The first Hispanic U.S. representative to the United Nations, she has received several presidential nominations and appointments from several presidents.



Students Travel to Italy to Play in Chess Olympiad

When most college students go to Europe, they have a long list of things to see and do. Two UTB/TSC students who traveled to Italy in late May had only one thing on their minds: chess.

Timur Gareev, of Uzbekistan, and Nelly Estrada, of Mexico, are both members of the UTB/TSC chess team and represented their home countries at the Chess Olympiad 2006 in Turin, Italy. Organized by the World Chess Federation, this tournament is considered the most prestigious in the world.

“It’s like the Wimbledon of tennis or the World Cup of soccer,” Gareev said. “There were so many strong players there, and I enjoyed sharing experiences with them.”

Each had to score well through a series of tournaments to qualify for the Chess Olympiad.



Since 1993, former students have been honored with the TSC Distinguished Alumnus Award. If you know of a former student who deserves to be recognized, please call the Office of News and Information at (956) 882-8231 or email us at newsandinfo@utb.edu.



BOND ISSUE UPDATE: PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD

Groundbreaking for the new UTB/TSC Wellness, Recreation and Kinesiology Complex is planned for this summer, while architects are now on board to design other campus projects approved by voters.

All projects in the \$68 million campus bond program are progressing as planned, reports Veronica Mendez, Assistant Vice President for Construction, with site demolition and bidding for various components of the wellness project well under way. The complex at the corner of University Boulevard and Ringgold Street, across from Scorpion Field, will anchor the planned campus recreation zone and include everything from classrooms and offices to racquetball courts and a weight room.

"We're into the area of what we call pre-project planning. Before you even break ground, set the foundation or start erecting steel, you have to have all those pieces in place," Mendez said. "There's a lot happening."

Voters approved seven projects in the bond package, designed to accommodate the rapid growth the campus has experienced in recent years and the influx of new students expected in the next decade. Included in the package is new parking already completed off University Boulevard, a new library, workforce training classrooms at ITEC, a center for early

childhood studies and a center for biomedical outreach and research.

As site work for the wellness complex proceeds, a campus advisory committee has been meeting to discuss furnishings, equipment selection and other details for the project. Each project in the bond package has its own Campus Advisory Committee, as well as a TSC Board Bond Advisory Committee.

Mendez says Campus Advisory Committees made up of faculty, staff and students who will actually use, teach and learn in the new facilities, are an important part of the construction process. The committees make recommendations to administrators who in turn make recommendations to Bond Advisory Committees named by the TSC Board of Trustees.

A major accomplishment this year by these Bond Advisory Committees has been the selection of architects for each project.

"The great thing about the process is that we had such great response, we were able to choose the best qualified firms in the country," said Mendez.

The 26 firms that responded included specialists in fine arts projects and children's spaces. The chosen firms will now proceed with designing each project, with the help of campus and board committees. "We anticipate having the first step, the schematic design, by the end of summer," Mendez said. "That will start to show us what these buildings will look like."

Designs for all the new projects will be guided

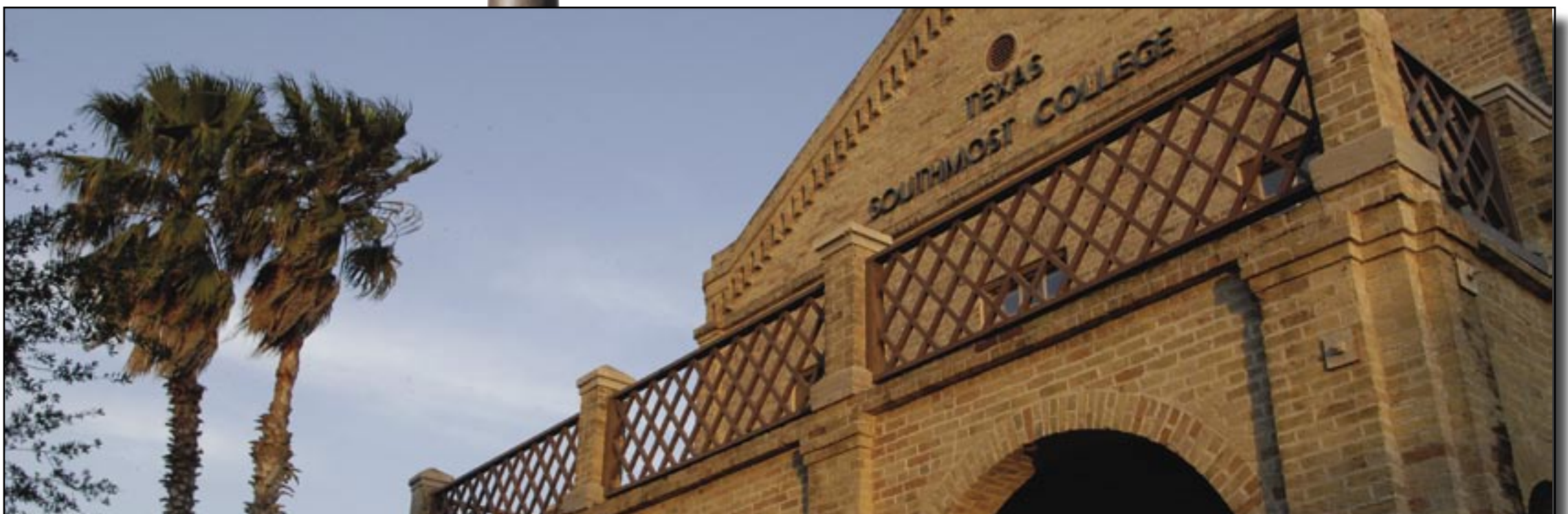
by the university's Master Plan, honoring the campus's historic ties, as well as its modern education function. "The university feels and looks the way it does because we adopted Master Plan values, and those values guide the design of all of our new buildings," Mendez said.

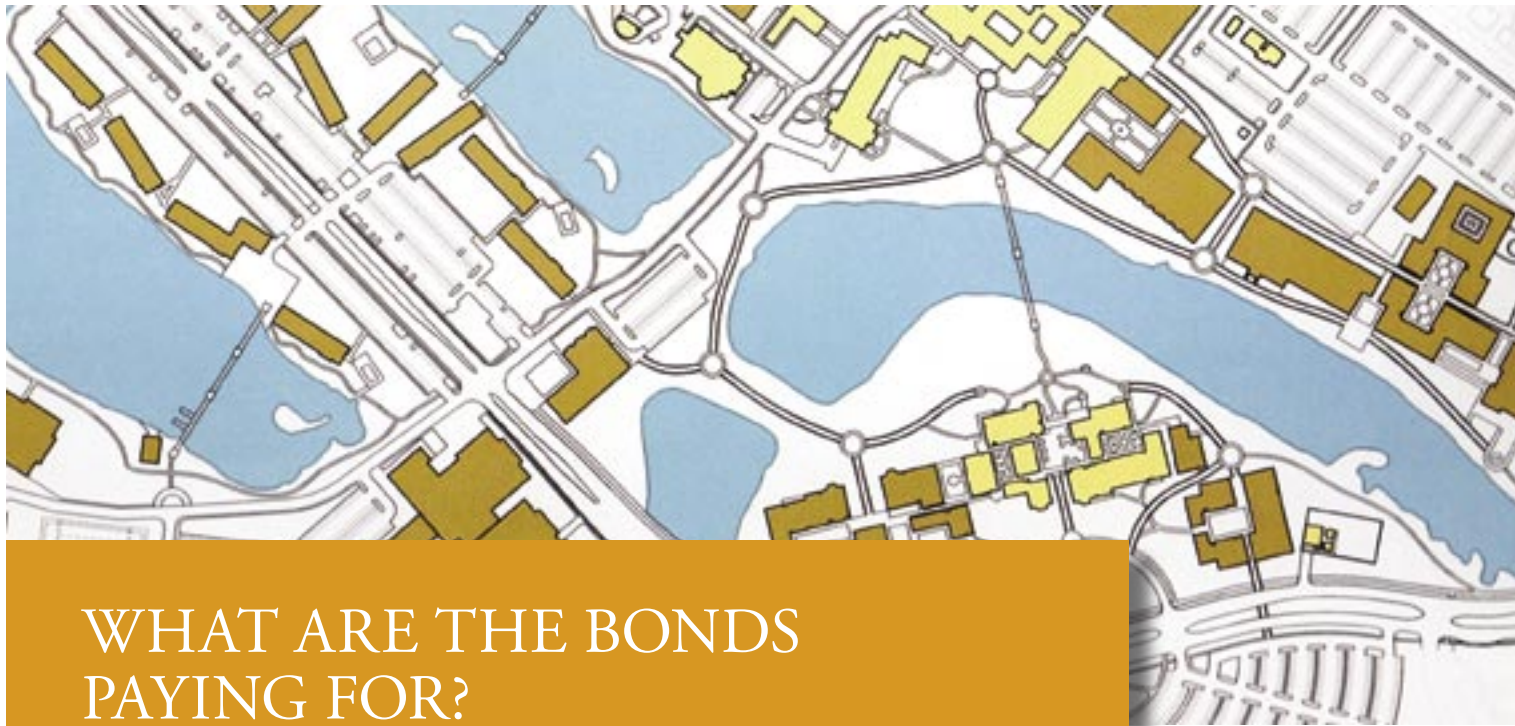
Ripple effects from new campus construction also mean better teaching, learning and working conditions for other campus programs: professors and students in areas like ceramics and sculpture will be moving into larger quarters in the Rusteberg Building, while campus police will have a much larger new home in the old Education Building.

Art programs spread out over several campus locations will now have room to stretch out together in the Rusteberg Building, says professor Nancy Sclight, who is coordinating the visual arts relocation.

"We've had to keep enrollment down because there are more students who want to take the courses than we have the space," Sclight explained. "This move will give us more of a central location, and most of all provide a lot more space for the individual classrooms."

And campus police officers say they'll perform their duties and offer services more efficiently and safely when they take over the old Education Building this fall. Campus Police spokesman, Lt. Armando Pulido, said 14 sworn officers, plus several dozen support, dispatch, parking and traffic workers are now crowded in the old Cavalry Building. The department's new home will allow for multiple interview and holding rooms, additional administrative offices, and more service windows for permits, traffic fines and lost items.





WHAT ARE THE BONDS
PAYING FOR?

1. Classroom Buildings

- Large Classroom Building
- 2 Extra Large Classrooms for 130 Students
- 3 Large Classrooms for 100 students
- 5 Medium Classrooms for 60 students
- 10 Faculty Offices
- Chairperson Suite

- Small Classroom Building
- 1 Extra Large Classroom for 130 students
- 2 Medium Classrooms for 60 students
- 2 Small Classrooms for 30 students
- 2 Seminar Rooms for 20 Students
- 14 Faculty Offices
- Chairperson Suite

2. Libraries

- Oliveira Library
- Renovation to expand the historical collections, continue to house volumes, archived periodicals, technical support, and offices.
- East Library
- Library Administration
- Reference volumes
- Book Collections
- Instructional Support
- Distance Education Support
- Student and Faculty Training
- Video Conferencing Center
- Internet Café
- Student Computer Lab
- Student Study Spaces

3. Center for Early Childhood Studies
Administrative Offices

- 8 Classrooms for Children ages 3 to 5
- Teaching Observation Rooms

- Multipurpose Room
- Playground facilities

4. Music Education

- 600 seat Recital Hall
- Large Rehearsal Hall
- Medium Rehearsal Hall
- Teaching Studios

5. Biomedical Research and Outreach

- 6 Research Laboratories
- 8 Faculty Offices
- Vivarium
- Administrative Support
- Community Outreach Center

6. Wellness, Recreation and Kinesiology
Complex

- 3 Gymnasiums
- Weight and Fitness Areas
- Multipurpose Activity Rooms
- Recreation staff offices
- 6 Classrooms
- 15 Faculty offices
- Motor Development and Exercise Physiology Laboratories
- Sport Fields
- Outdoor Pool

7. International Technology, Education and
Commerce Campus

This project includes exterior and interior renovation to enhance the ITEC Campus. The goal is to develop spaces that serve as a driver for high-tech, industry and globalization, with an academic critical mass of world-class scientists and technologists.

FACULTY GROWTH
CONTINUED

School of Education

The chance to help UTB/TSC build its first doctoral program in education also helped lure Dr. Richard Gomez, Jr. from his job directing Washington’s state bilingual education program. A Brownsville native, Gomez also has invaluable experience coordinating Texas Tech University’s bilingual education program. He brings that experience back home as UTB/TSC works towards its education doctorate in curriculum and instruction.

“This is the community that I know and love,” Gomez said. “This seemed to be an exciting time in UTB/TSC history. Professionally and personally, it is exciting to be a part of this great opportunity for the community at large.”

Now an Associate Professor in the School of Education, Gomez earned his doctorate in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in bilingual education from Texas A&M University in 1994. He attended Texas Southmost College and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from what was then Pan American University in Brownsville and UT-Pan American in Brownsville.

“I’ve come full circle,” says Gomez. “It’s a great opportunity to make sure this program provides a valuable resource to our school districts. It’s exciting when you get in on the ground floor.”

School of Health Sciences

Penelope Bennet-Baird holds a PhD in nursing from the UT Health Science Center in San Antonio, and has more than a decade of clinical experience in the care of premature and sick newborns.

In her doctoral dissertation, she devised new nursing standards designed to cut infection for the tiniest and most fragile hospital patients.

Coming to the UTB/TSC faculty from a neonatology practice in Brownsville allows her to follow her passion for nursing—and to help build a top-quality nursing program with a strong clinical foundation.

At the university, Bennet-Baird said she found administrators and educators who share her passion. “I wanted to start developing a master’s and doctoral program for the School of Nursing, and they had that vision for the department,” she said. “We’re building something here. Tell us we can’t do it and we’re going to do it anyway.”

School of Business

UTB/TSC’s location on the U.S. border with Mexico helped lure Gautam Hazarika, an expert in international development, from his university post in Virginia.

Hazarika, who earned his doctorate in economics from the University of Rochester in New York, said his new base in Brownsville is a distinct plus in his academic area, which is the study of less-developed countries. He has already researched the effects of NAFTA on gender discrimination in Mexico.

“Being on the border gives me some advantages,” said Hazarika, who is now an Assistant Professor in the department of Business Administration. “You definitely get a better feel for Mexico.”

Another current interest is the effects of government education policies, especially the cost of education, on child labor practices in India.

Many current and existing faculty could easily obtain prestigious jobs elsewhere because of their outstanding credentials and teaching skills, says Ragland. They come and stay at UTB/TSC, she added, because their contributions are noticed and appreciated.

“If a faculty member comes here with new ideas to improve or create programs that involve students, they know they’ll have our support wherever possible.”

HOLD
THE
DATE

Groundbreaking for new Wellness, Recreation & Kinesiology Complex
August 22, 10 a.m.
The site is located on University Boulevard





FROM ENCHILADA
SAUCE TO COUNTRY
MUSIC STARS, LOCAL
ORGANIZATIONS
WORK TO MAKE
HIGHER EDUCATION A
REALITY FOR MANY



For decades many local organizations have worked diligently to help students achieve a college degree, believing that education will help solve many of the region’s challenges. From gallons of homemade enchilada sauce to gala dinners and big-name concerts, grass-roots efforts by dedicated community leaders have grown into scholarship fundraising extravaganzas. Thank you to the individuals, organizations and clubs, foundations and corporations and the thoughtful memorials that have provided more than \$300,000 dollars for scholarships this year to help achieve students’ dreams of a college education.

THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY NURSING
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Nursing Scholarship Fund has been giving local students a boost since 1989. The late Eloise Ely Sweeney was approached by the Dean of the TSC Vocational Nursing Program concerning a student faced with a dilemma. The student could either pay her light bill or buy her textbooks to continue in the nursing program. Sweeney created a network of people who formed the Lower Rio Grande Nursing Scholarship Fund. Since 1989, the fund has awarded more than \$300,000 in scholarships, benefiting more



than 325 nursing and health care students. In addition to endowments given by generous donors, the scholarships are funded by an annual gala, which just celebrated its 17th year. Former recipients of the scholarship now sit on the board, and Sweeney’s daughter, Sandra Sweeney Wilson, continues her mother’s legacy today. “It started from nothing; it was really a grass-roots thing,” she said. “Students who have received scholarships are now giving back, and it’s so rewarding. We’re just trying to carry the torch that was passed on to us.”

THE BROWNSVILLE COURT OF THE CATHOLIC
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

The Brownsville Court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas has been awarding scholarships to UTB/TSC students since 1983. What began as a simple Mexican dinner at St. Joseph’s Parish Hall has evolved into a pre-Charro Days fiesta complete with entertainment. What hasn’t changed is Ester C. Tobin’s famous enchilada sauce. Although she has had to tweak the recipe to make the gallons and gallons now required each year, it still tastes the same as it did at that first small dinner. “We give food to the



poor and gifts to the less fortunate at Christmas, but if we give them help with higher education, we’re giving them a foundation,” said Tobin, one of the first members of the Brownsville Court established in the 1960s. The Catholic Daughters raise enough money to award several \$500 scholarships each year, which they target for sophomores. “We give the scholarship to sophomores because we feel that many students have saved money to begin college, but then when it begins to run out we can give them a boost.”

SOUTH TEXAS ACADEMIC RISING STARS
(STARS)

A more recently established scholarship program, the South Texas Academic Rising Stars (STARS), began as a grass-roots effort. Founded in 2002, the goal was to make higher education accessible to the students of South Texas. Since its beginning, the STARS Scholarship Foundation of South Texas has helped area students obtain a higher education at the college or university of their choice. This year the scholarship was awarded to nearly 1,000 students in a 22-county area. “I consider education to be the answer to the problems that face the border, specifically poverty, crime, and high unemployment. I have seen first-hand the

effects of these problems and feel education is the single most important issue to be addressed in our community,” said Joe LaMantia, Jr., founder and board chairman for STARS. Each year multiple fundraisers are held, often concerts with huge headliners, such as Clint Black and Gretchen Wilson, to replenish the fund. This year nearly 200 UTB/TSC students were awarded STARS scholarships for the Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 semesters. For many of these students, the scholarship covered their tuition for the full academic year.



Scorpion Soccer
is coming!
Fall 2007



Johnny and Nena Cavazos have backed up their belief in higher education before, and their latest gift means another \$500,000 for student scholarships—this time for elementary education majors in the UTB/TSC School of Education.

A second-grade teacher before joining her husband in their successful Brownsville insurance business, Nena said the couple’s newest gift—for a total scholarship endowment of \$1 million—is her special dream.

“I believe the early years are very important. If you don’t get excited about education early on and see the value of it, it’s too easy to drop out,” says Nena. “Teachers make a big difference.”

Two years ago, the Cavazos’ established an endowment for education students in the area of kinesiology, the study of human movement. Johnny was a high school football and track star who coached for several years before going into the insurance business.

“That money has been a big help. It covered my fall and spring tuition,” says a grateful Chris Cisneros, a junior in education and exercise science who received one of the Cavazos kinesiology scholarships. Working three jobs to put himself through college, Cisneros says he hopes one day to teach high school special education students. “My parents are putting my little brother through college as well, and receiving this money has really helped a lot.”

Cisneros’ desire to work with special education children is a topic dear to the Cavazos’ heart. They share their home with Nena’s brother, who has Downs Syndrome. Nena says her brother learned to read and is smart in many ways, but could have benefited from more intervention as a young child. “What if he had had more opportunities as a young boy? You have to have those early years.”

With this latest gift, Nena made sure that student teachers who want to work with young children also have the financial help they need to



Chris Cisneros, junior in Education



NEW CAVAZOS ENDOWMENT BENEFITS STUDENT TEACHERS

graduate. Johnny, an avid hunter and sportsman, has done the same for kinesiology majors.

“I’m a firm believer in education,” says Nena, who adds that a scholarship can be the difference between a drop-out and a graduate with a rewarding future.

Although the Cavazos’ have been providing scholarships for Brownsville high school graduates for some time, they say their UTB/TSC scholarship endowment, the largest family endowment the university has ever received, allows them to make a permanent investment that will support the community long after they are gone.

The couple treasures the cards and letters they receive from grateful scholarship recipients. “I keep all those cards and letters,” says Johnny. “Some of them will put little tears in your eye.”

The Cavazos’ met at a much smaller TSC in the early 1950s, not long after the campus moved to its present location at the site of old Fort Brown. The couple supports the school where they first fell in love and began their college careers because they realize its importance to the community’s youth and economy.

“I’m so impressed with what’s going on there,” said Nena, saving special praise for the new Education and Business Complex on University Boulevard. “It’s something for Brownsville to be very proud of.”

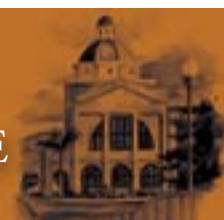
Thank You

Thank you to the individuals, organizations and clubs, foundations and corporations and the thoughtful memorials that are making a difference in the lives of students. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please call the Office of Development at (956) 548-8708 or email Barry Horn, Assistant Vice President for Development, at barry.horn@utb.edu.

ACT Air Force Society Scholarship
Accounting Education Foundation of the Texas Society
Mary Ethel Adams Scholarship
Advanced Placement Strategies, Inc. Scholarship
Alpha Delta Kappa Scholarship
Alamo Bank Scholarship
America-China Friendship Scholarship
Americorps Cash from Americorps Sponsorship
American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship
American Vietnam Veterans
Association of Texas Small School Bands
Atkinson Scholarship
A. X. & Florestela Benavidez Scholarship Fund
Best Buy Scholarship
Bettie Lane Barnhill Bragg Scholarship
Brotherhood of Faith Scholarship
Brownsville Coffee Shop #2 Scholarship
Cameron Works-1st Generation Scholarship
Raymond Castañeda Memorial Scholarship
Sofia Castillo Business Scholarship
Catholic Daughters of the Americas
College First Scholarship
Edgar L. Cuellar Scholarship
Judy Cuellar Scholarship
Joy V. Cunningham Scholarship
Datatel Scholars Foundation
Michael J. Figueroa Memorial Scholarship
First National Bank Scholarship

Ford Salute to Education
Ernesto Gamez Jr. Law Firm
Gates Millennium Scholars Hispanic Scholarship Fund
General Donor Scholarship
Harlingen CISD Scholarship Fund
Harlingen Family Dentistry, P.C. Scholarship
Harold Harvey Invitational Scholarship
HEB Scholarship
Homer Hanna High School JROTC Parent Booster
HSF
Greg Irons Award
Junior Service League-Brownsville
Katy ISD Scholarship
KGBT TV 4 Communication Scholarship
Keller High School PTSA
Lions Club- Brownsville, TX
Los Fresnos A.T.P.E. Scholarship
Los Fresnos High School Scholarship
Lower Rio Grande Valley Nursing Scholarship Fund
Senator Eddie Lucio Jr. Scholarship Fund
Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc.
McDonald’s Scholarship
Mission Presbytery Scholarship
Mr. B Motor, Inc. Scholarship Fund
Pan American Round Table Scholarship Fund
Pan Am Golf Association
PacifiCare Foundation & Latino Health Scholarship
Pizza Hut Scholarship

Port Isabel High School Scholarship
Presidential Freedom Scholarship
Raymondville High School Scholarship
RGV Estate Planning Council
RGV Livestock Show, Inc.
Amador R. Rodriguez Memorial Scholarship
SBC Foundation Scholarship Program
Siant-Gobian Abrasives Brownsville (Norton)
Same Salute to Education Scholarship
San Benito CISD Scholarship Fund
Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM)
South Plains Telephone Cooperative Scholarship
South Texas Higher Education Foundation (Co STEP)
South Texas Academic Rising Scholars Foundation Scholarship Fund
St. Andrews Episcopal Church Scholarship
St. Joseph Academy Scholarship
Subway Scholarship
Jack Sullivan Scholarship
SunTrust Bank
Janie Treviño Scholarship
USA Fund Access to Education Scholarship
UTB Scholarship Scorpions in the Boardroom
Valley Federal Credit Union
Valley Regional Medical Center Auxiliary
V.F.W. Post 2410 Scholarship
Filemon Vela Middle School PTA Scholarship
Wal-Mart Foundation Scholarship
Watch Your Car Scholarship



“Our office assists prospective students and their families by providing information regarding programs of study and enrollment services.”
– Carlo Tamayo, Coordinator of New Student Relations

A CONVERSATION WITH... CARLO TAMAYO, COORDINATOR OF NEW STUDENT RELATIONS



Q. What is the purpose of the New Student Relations Office?

A: Our office assists prospective students and their families by providing information on- and off-campus regarding programs of study and enrollment services. We have a number of student groups that we serve including high school students taking part in dual enrollment classes, traditional high school graduates, and adult learners—individuals who may have stopped out of college or put off coming to college and are now ready to come to college.

Q. How early should children and parents begin planning for college?

A: We have tours scheduled for students as young as the third grade. We feel that the younger a student is exposed to the idea and understands that a college degree is in his/her grasp, the better off he/she will be.

Q. What is Dual Enrollment?

A: The Dual Enrollment Program gives high school students the opportunity to earn college credit for classes they take on their high school campus. The dual credit course awards both high school credit and college credit. Courses are available at all levels of high school, and there are both academic and technical opportunities. The huge advantage of this program is students who choose to participate and are successful can earn college credit; and the cost for these courses is normally just \$5, and often times the school districts pay the fee. The students also do not have to purchase books.

We're seeing more and more students take part in dual enrollment. We have a senior in high school who will graduate this spring halfway towards his bachelor's degree in computer science and mathematics.

This program builds confidence, self-esteem and it helps students believe that the goal of obtaining a college education is very real.

Q. How do high school students enroll in Dual Enrollment classes?

A: Students should identify which courses are available at their high school. They can contact our office or the Dual Enrollment Office on campus. Once the available course has been identified, and it is deemed appropriate for the student to take based on their academic skills, the student moves forward with the UTB/TSC admissions process. Once this process is complete, then they schedule the class with their high school counselor.

Q. Some recent high school graduates may still be making decisions about attending college this fall. What is it important for them to know?

A: It's important for incoming freshmen and their parents to know where they can turn to for help with any questions or concerns they may have. We can either help answer any of the questions that they have, or if it's a very specific, technical situation, we can make sure we connect them with the appropriate staff.

We do more than just refer. We will facilitate that conversation.

For students who haven't finished off the process of enrolling, now is a very critical time to take care of outstanding issues in place. It is easier to deal with any issues when there's ample time, instead of during crunch time when the semester is about to begin.

Q. What other types of questions do you help answer for parents and students?

A: Students and parents often ask about student life on campus. We connect them with the Student Activities Office. There are so many opportunities to explore. UTB/TSC has leadership and athletic and intramural programs. There are also many career-orientated groups such as the Students Toward Excellence in Medicine organization, which is for students interested in pursuing a career in the health field.

Parents should feel free to contact us regarding any questions they may have about the enrollment process. We are here to help them support their sons and daughters as they move from high school to college.

Q. How can your office assist adult learners?

A: We find that adult learners may need more information about how they can manage their personal and family lives along with their academic lives. Often times we can get them started by sharing stories of successful students—how students in their same situations are managing and being successful. We can connect them with on-campus resources such as child care. We also offer workshops and other services that will help them manage their academic lives.

Q. If an adult has been out of school, how do you help them to make the transition back into the classroom?

A: If they're brand new to the university, then they will most likely take the Texas Success Initiative state-approved exam. The assessment test is designed to evaluate a person's knowledge of reading, writing and math, and then the assessment is used to place a student appropriately into course levels. It ensures that a student is not going into a class that is too difficult for their skill level, or a class that is too easy for them and is not going to provide them with any value or opportunity to develop.

Adult learners should feel very comfortable on our campus.

Q. What are some of the best-kept secrets on campus that students should know about?

A: I would say the Learning Assistance Center, which offers programs and tutoring designed to help students acquire and maximize learning and study skills. Again, the many opportunities we have for students to become engaged on campus through co-curricular activities.

I also believe the personal attention that students can find from faculty, the opportunity to interact with professors, is not always well known. Faculty have a very open-door approach to working with students and have a strong commitment to those students. They care about their students, and they want their students to succeed. Of course there is a level of responsibility that students have to have, but I feel the faculty go above and beyond the expectations of caring and reaching out to students.

The Office of New Student Relations is located in Tandy Hall, Room 116. Please contact a Student Development Specialist at (956) 882-8860.





WHAT IS UPWARD BOUND?

Upward Bound assists students who are economically disadvantaged or first-generation college bound. UTB/TSC hosts three programs: Classic Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math & Science and a program for veterans.

Upward Bound provides students and their parents with a variety of services. There are field trips, assistance with financial aid, preparation for college testing requirements, career exploration and after-school mentoring and tutoring.

Where can I get information?

Please go to <http://www.sa.utb.edu> or call (956) 882-3846.

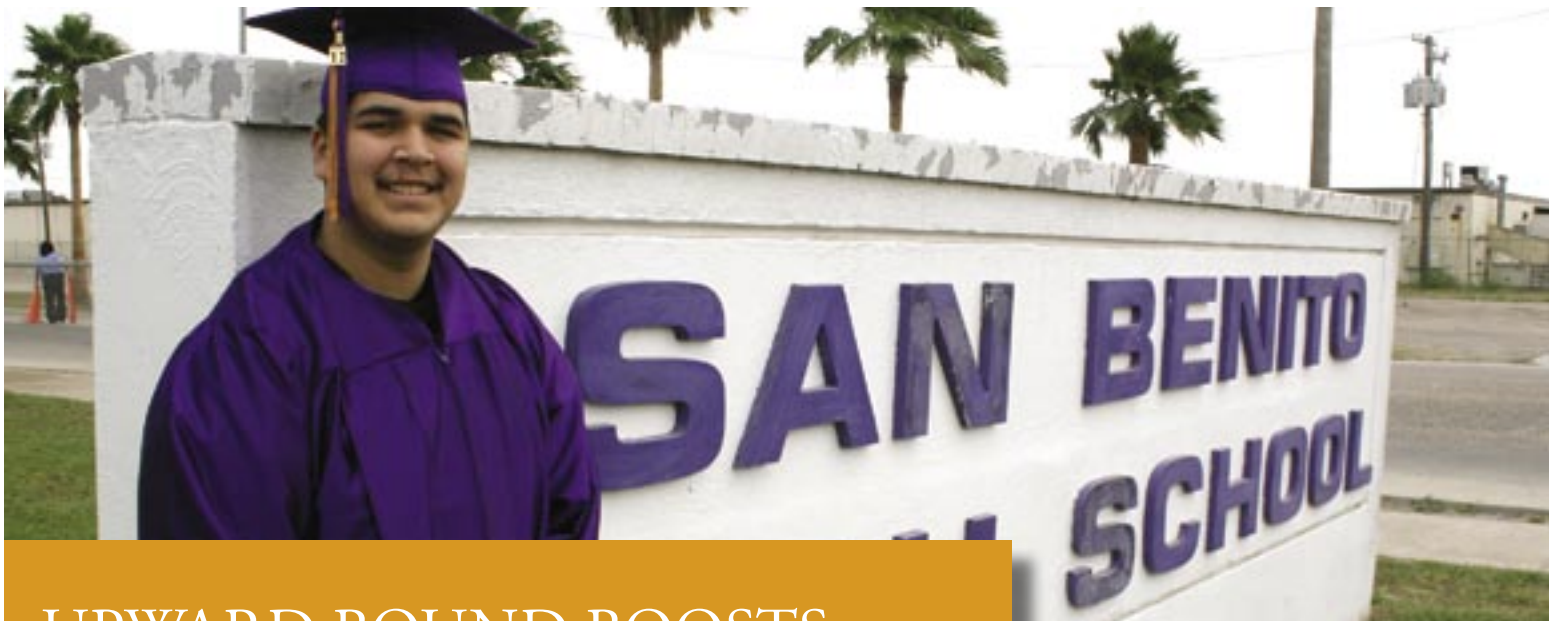
WHAT IS DUAL ENROLLMENT?

The Dual Enrollment program gives high school students the opportunity to earn college credit for classes they take on their high school campus. Students who are currently enrolled in high school and meet the testing requirements, where appropriate, are eligible to take Dual Enrollment classes.

By taking Dual Enrollment classes, students can earn credit for both high school and college by taking just one course. Most classes just require a small \$5 fee, and there is no charge for books.

Where can I get information?

Please go to <http://blue.utb.edu/admissions> or call (956) 882-8295.



UPWARD BOUND BOOSTS STUDENT SUCCESS

Imagine graduating from high school with two years of college—an Associate of Arts degree—already completed.

When Joe Manzano walked across the stage at his San Benito High School commencement ceremonies this spring, he was the first student in the seven-year history of UTB/TSC’s Upward Bound program to accomplish that goal. Thanks to Upward Bound, Manzano left high school already halfway towards his planned 4-year bachelor’s degree in computer science and mathematics.

Upward Bound Math and Science encourages high school students to take challenging math and science courses by promising a taste of college life—and college credit—as well as a high school diploma. The federally funded program, hosted by UTB/TSC, targets low-income students and those who would be the first-generation college graduates. It pays tuition, fees and transportation costs, plus mentoring services.

Manzano also earned college hours through dual enrollment courses. Students can earn college hours through dual enrollment courses offered at their high schools. Also this May, Upward Bound celebrated the first of its students—Erika Lizbeth Garcia of Harlingen—to complete a

bachelor’s degree.

A graduate of Harlingen High School, Garcia went on to earn her

bachelor’s in science and mathematics from UTB/TSC.

“A lot of kids in high school don’t go on to college,” says program director Ray Martinez. “We need to encourage more students to continue their education, especially here in this area. What we provide, along with books and tuition, is the guidance and support.”

Since the Upward Bound program’s inception in 1999, students have saved themselves \$140,706 in college tuition and fees, and have earned an additional \$431,981 in college scholarships, not including federal Pell grants.

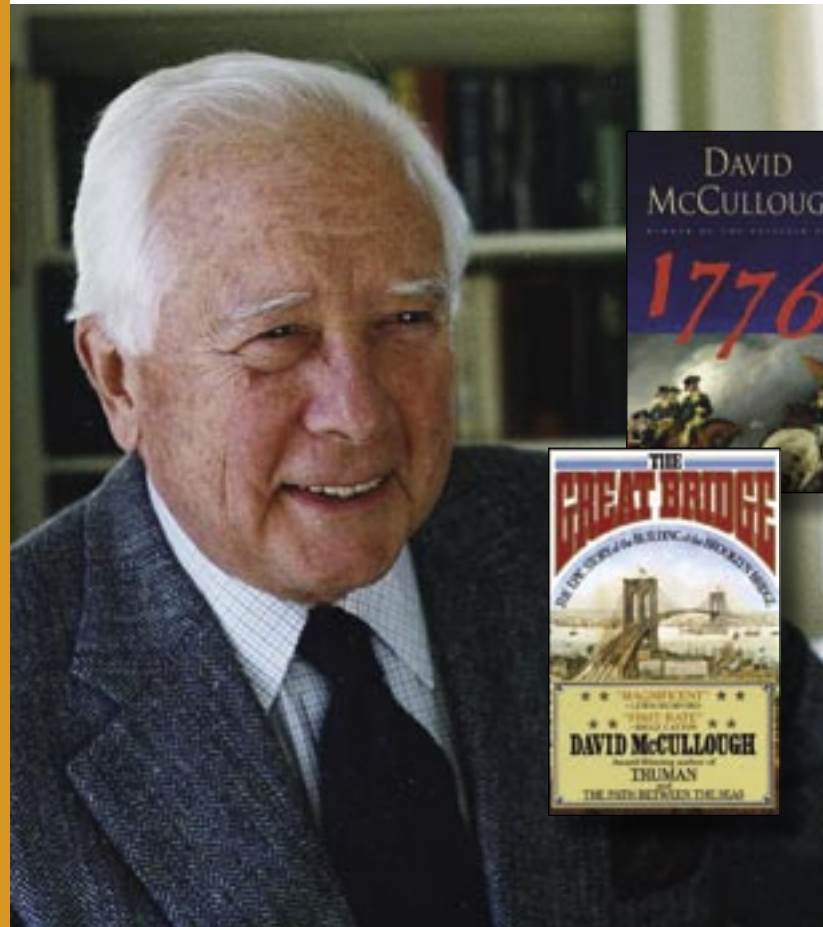
“My parents are ecstatic. It’s more than the savings on college tuition. They were more interested that I achieved so much. They were just glad that I stuck with it,” says Manzano.

Manzano, who has been accepted at Rice and Texas A&M—not to mention UTB/TSC—hopes to open his own business one day. He is interested in both accounting and marketing. Another dream is to return to the Valley with a scholarship program—to help other students like himself afford college.



Distinguished Lecture Series:

DAVID McCULLOUGH



One of the nation’s most celebrated and readable historians, a chronicler of American heroes like John Adams and American conquests like the Panama Canal, awaits university friends and donors when David McCullough visits the Rio Grande Valley as part of the Distinguished Lecture Series.

McCullough is a two-time winner of both the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award. His latest book, 1776, is a fascinating insight into the American Revolution. But this popular author and historian also has a strong South Texas connection: He includes an entire chapter on William Crawford Gorgas, the Army doctor whose career fighting yellow fever included a pivotal assignment at old Fort Brown. Gorgas Hall was originally the Fort Brown hospital where Gorgas began his research on tropical disease.

Call the Office of Development at (956) 548-8708 to reserve your tickets.

Date: October 16, 7 p.m.
Location: Science and Engineering Technology Building Lecture Hall



UTB/TSC celebrated its growing successes and bright future in university research this spring with the opening of its new Research Building for Biomedical Sciences.

Young scientists-to-be in lab coats cut the ribbon for the new facility, which was recently renovated to provide more space for the laboratories and sophisticated equipment needed for the university's competitive research in the biological sciences.

"This may seem like the renovation of a small building on our campus, but to our college...it represents a milestone achievement," Dr. Emir Jose Macari, then Dean of the College of Science Mathematics and Technology, said at the March dedication. "This ceremony celebrates the successes that the Department of Biological Sciences faculty, students and staff have already achieved. We should also be reminded: The best is yet to come."

The "new" 6,000-square-foot research building, formerly the Vocational Trade Shop, was built in the early 1970s. It was renovated and restored by students under the guidance of Professor Larry Lof, who has spearheaded several historic renovation projects, on and off campus.

Educational experts agree that a strong university research program attracts motivated students and high-quality faculty members. At the dedication, UTB/TSC President Dr. Juliet V. García noted that the biological sciences department has recently attracted \$12 million in federal research grants, along with new faculty—including several women scientists—eager to make the most of the opportunities those dollars represent. A new master's degree in biology is encouraging students to seek a career in biological research, she added.

"The university is committed to research and to excellence," Dr. García told a gathered crowd of university supporters. "For their role in helping to move the university forward in the area of research, I want to commend the dedicated faculty who work



YOUNG SCIENTISTS FIND NEW HOME IN BIO MED RESEARCH BUILDING



through long hours in quiet labs; the dedicated faculty who find a way to keep a student interested in learning more about biology; the dedicated faculty who keep writing for the next grant opportunity and the next publication opportunity."

Speakers at the dedication included two UTB/TSC students who have discovered a passion for science through research.

One, a mother of three and lab assistant who will take home her bachelor's degree in business next year, is also now working on a biology degree. The other told of her work with UTB/TSC scientists on disease-causing parasites.

"It is the real-world problem-solving aspects of this type of work that I find so fascinating, and which inspired me to pursue a career in science," said Gloria Puente, a UTB/TSC graduate now working in the lab with Associate Professor Michael Lehker. "The

fascinating part about research is that you learn something new every day."

Noting the high incidence of diseases such as diabetes, obesity and Alzheimer's along the border, UTB/TSC Provost Dr. Jose Martín also congratulated the Department of Biological Sciences for its work in investigating those diseases for the public good.

"During the last few years, this university has had the privilege of taking a greater leadership role in improving life conditions in the Lower Rio Grande region of South Texas," Martín said. "To lead requires the development of research centers and academic programs that address, through investigation and public education, major health issues and disorders that affect a region with a fast-growing population in an economically disadvantaged area of the country."

"It is evident that research activities, coupled with strong teaching values, help our students to become empowered, to feel they are part of the department, the college and the university," Macari said. "Working in research allows for a much more intense mentoring relationship between faculty, students and staff."



GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS: SILVIA REYES AND ANTHONY MARTINEZ

GATES MILLENNIUM CRITERIA

Students must:

- Be African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American
- Be a citizen/legal permanent resident or national of the United States
- Have attained a cumulative GPA of 3.3 on a 4.0 scale
- Be entering a U.S. accredited college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking freshman in the fall
- Have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities
- Meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria

Submitting last-minute scholarship applications led to the pot of gold for UTB/TSC students Silvia Reyes and Anthony Martinez.

Last-minute submissions by the Brownsville Porter High School graduates garnered full scholarships from the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program to both students.

"It was like winning the lottery. I didn't think I was going to get it. It was a long shot," said Martinez, 20, a senior psychology major, who was awarded the scholarship in 2003.

The Gates Millennium Scholarship Program provides full scholarships to the recipients for up to 10 years. It was created in 1999 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It is a \$1 billion 20-year plan that provides 1,000 scholarships per year to high achievers.

"Since I was in elementary, my father always stressed education. He would say to me it was important to read and get educated," Martinez said.

The Gates Millennium Scholarship Program is geared toward minority students. Undergraduate students may study any subject, but graduate students must commit to studying science, math, engineering, education or library science. Martinez wants to continue his graduate studies in education psychology at The University of Texas at Austin.

"If it wasn't for the scholarship I don't know where I would be. A lot of my friends are working and going to school and it just gets too hectic. I don't think I would be as well

experienced in my field as I am if not for the scholarship," said Martinez who has a 3.9 GPA and was ranked 7th in his senior year at Porter High School.

Reyes didn't realize the magnitude of the scholarship until she attended a conference in Washington D.C., in which the details of the program were laid out. She had not heard of the Gates Millennium Scholarship but decided to fill out the application anyway to meet the requirements of the Upward Bound Program in which she was a member.

"I was excited when I got it. I knew there would be a lot of people sending in the applications," said Reyes, 22, a bilingual education major who received the scholarship in 2002. Reyes' graduate studies will focus on bilingual education as well. Martinez and Reyes, said had it not been for the Gates Millennium Scholarship Program they would have either a tough time or probably wouldn't be attending college.

"My family might be able to help me pay for college here, but if I was to go get my master's somewhere else, it would be impossible," said Reyes, who has a 3.8 GPA and was ranked 2nd in her senior class at Porter High School.

Both students know the pressure is on for them to do their best in the academic world and both are up to the challenge.

"It's like Spiderman: with great power comes great responsibility," Martinez said.



GRADUATE STUDENT PROFILE: BEATRIZ VON OHLEN



Seventy-year-old Beatriz Von Ohlen did not let her age keep her from achieving her goal of earning a Master of Science in Nursing degree. After working more than 30 years in the field as a registered nurse, Von Ohlen decided to work on her graduate degree at UTB/TSC.

“I was going to try one course at a time, but it didn’t turn out that way. I ended up going full-time taking nine hours a semester,” said Von Ohlen, who began working on her MSN at the age of 68.

Her family, including her husband, five children, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, cheered her on.

“My husband thinks I can be a perpetual student so he just encouraged me. If I wanted to do it, it was okay,” Von Ohlen said. Three of her children are following in her footsteps. All are entering the medical field. Von Ohlen earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 1997 from UTB/TSC. She was one of the first graduates of the program that was founded in 1995. Von Ohlen was 61.

“Ms. Von Ohlen has been a remarkable addition to our nursing department. Her past experiences in

nursing and her history of service in this community have engendered many good things for our nursing department and our students,” said Dr. Eldon Nelson, Dean of the School of Health Sciences. “Through her enthusiastic professionalism, she is constantly reminding us all of what excellence in nursing can be!”

Von Ohlen’s nursing career began in 1974. Prior to that, she raised her children. She actually began working in the nursing field right after high school, but could not continue her education because of rules intact at that time.

“In those days you could not go to nursing school and be married, so I had to drop out,” Von Ohlen said. Many years later, Von Ohlen returned to school to earn her Associate in Nursing degree and later her BSN. Von Ohlen also taught two classes at UTB/TSC while working on her MSN. She spent two days a week at area hospitals where her students conducted their clinical studies.

Her students called her “Miss B” and they applauded her as she, too, worked on her degree. Many walked across the same stage with Von Ohlen during spring commencement.

“I’m very excited for her because of her age; she never stopped going. She’s been an inspiration for all of us. It sends out a clear message to everybody that it’s never too late to be successful,” said Joe Losoya, 23, a student of Von Ohlen’s who received his ADN at spring commencement.

Although Von Ohlen was the oldest in her graduating MSN class, she didn’t mind. In fact, many students were surprised by her age.

“They didn’t believe me when I told them how old I was. They keep you young by asking and getting you to look at different things,” Von Ohlen said.

Von Ohlen’s advice to students both old and young who are thinking about continuing their education; “It keeps you young and you are never too old to learn something. There is always something to learn.”



Nursing Program Information

For more information about the nursing program, contact the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at (956) 882-5000.

ALUMNA’S DIET BOOK – NEW YORK TIMES BEST SELLER

“For me it felt very natural to go there and take classes. I just remember feeling at home there.”

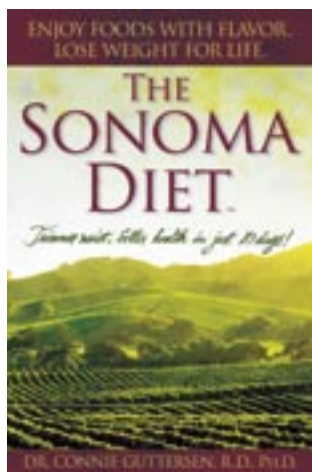


Connie Peraglie Guttersen’s career as a dietitian, culinary professional and best-selling author has taken her far from her South Texas home, but she fondly remembers the summers she spent taking college courses at what is now UTB/TSC.

Creator of *The Sonoma Diet*, Guttersen is an expert on weight management and obesity—interests she shared with her father, Dr. Bruno Peraglie, a physician who practiced in Brownsville for many years.

Now living with her family in the Wine Country of Northern California, she earned her undergraduate college degree from Texas Christian University. During college summers, she took several classes at her hometown university as well.

“For me it felt very natural to go there and take classes. It was part of the community,” says Guttersen, who grew up visiting the UTB/TSC campus for sports,

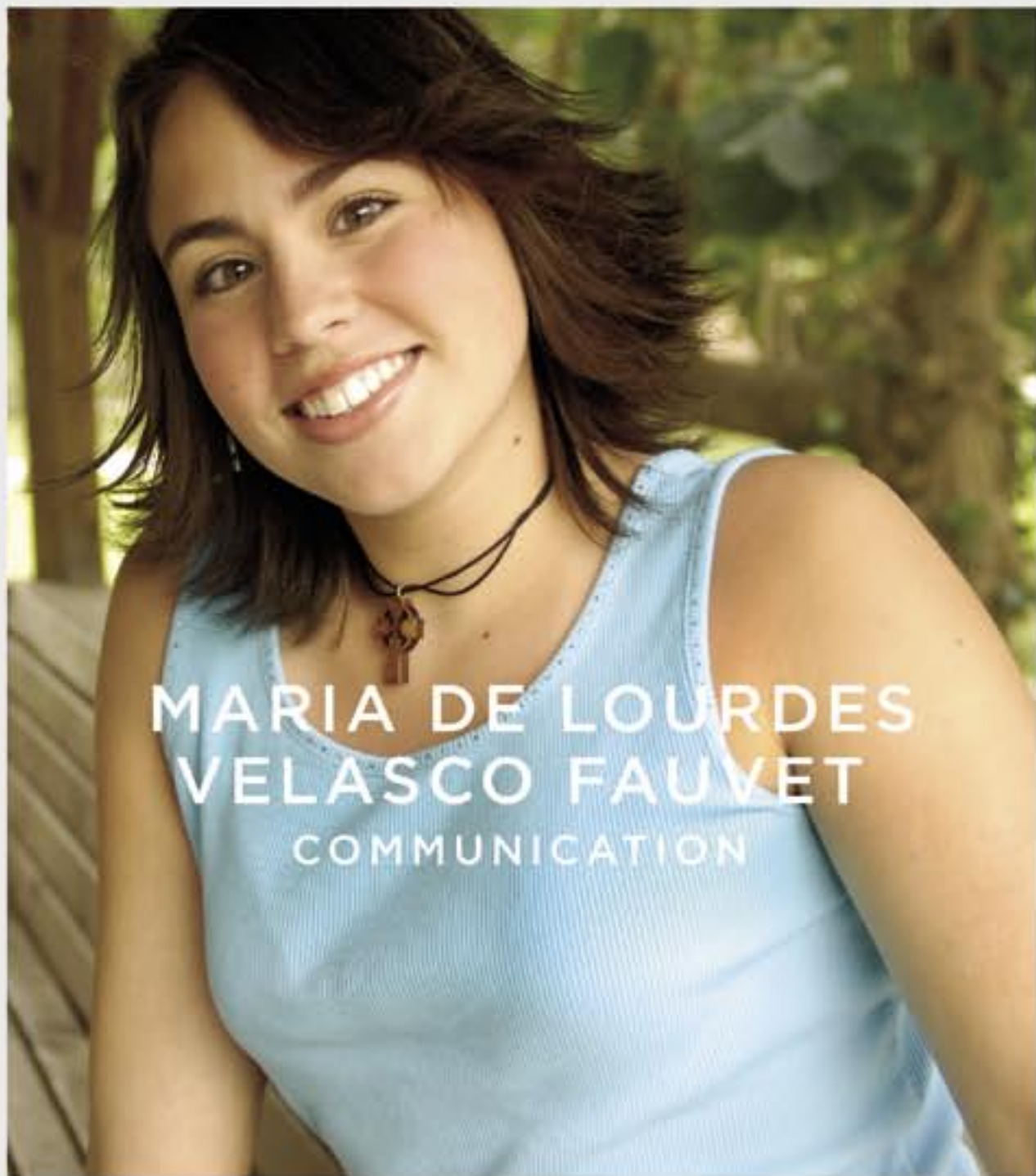


social and cultural events. Recalling the “incredible faculty” and the strong support they provided—especially during one memorably tough organic chemistry course—she added: “I just remember feeling at home there.”

Guttersen eventually earned her PhD in nutrition in 1992 from Texas Women’s University and is now the nutrition instructor to chefs at the acclaimed Culinary Institute of America at Greystone.

Her book, *The Sonoma Diet*, has been featured in national magazines, and emphasizes food enjoyment, as well as nutrient-rich “power foods” like almonds, blueberries, olive oil, spinach, bell peppers, strawberries and whole grains. It is a way of eating which compliments a healthy lifestyle, where you lose weight and gain health with flavorful foods. Guttersen says her *Sonoma Diet Cookbook*, a companion to *The Sonoma Diet*, is due out in November.





MARIA DE LOURDES
VELASCO FAUVET
COMMUNICATION



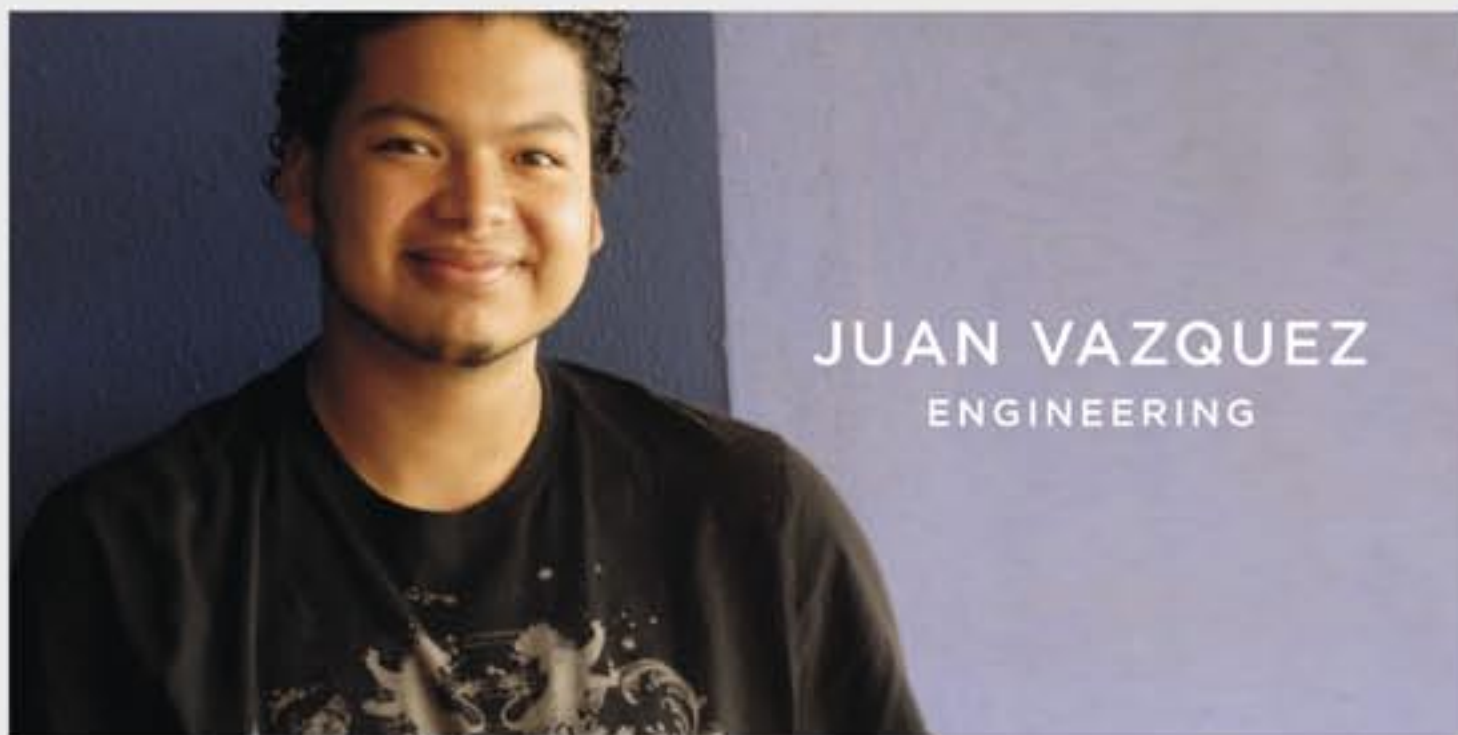
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